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16 September 1964

JCS review completed.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 10 September 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Ambassador Thompson, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Colonel Ralph D. Steakley was present for Item 1.

NSC Review Completed

OSD review completed

1. BLUE SPRINGS

a. A discussion of drone operations first centered around phrasing a reply to Deputy Ambassador Alexis Johnson in Saigon, who raised certain questions in [redacted] 10 September 1964. Mr. Vance said the cable would indicate a JCS stand down on current operations, pending a review already under way; the Embassy would be advised prior to any future implementation; Ambassador Unger in Vientiane had been advised separately of BLUE SPRINGS; and the inconsistency in the cover story (launching from South Vietnam [redacted]) was also under study.

b. Mr. Bundy felt that using drones [redacted] from South Vietnam revealed a U.S. hand, a matter which could be exploited readily by the press. Mr. Vance and Mr. McCone felt that BLUE SPRINGS should be continued; they felt it was important not only to perfect the art, but also to obtain much needed intelligence.

c. It was generally agreed that drones should operate from Kadana [redacted] No conclusion was reached concerning the type of markings to be used in operations from South Vietnam.

d. However, it was determined that this matter be raised again at next week's luncheon with higher authority and the Secretary of State's view [redacted] would be reviewed.

e. It was agreed that until the matter of operating from South Vietnam has been resolved, BLUE SPRINGS should be resumed from Kadana [redacted] State Dept. review completed

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